United Nations A/57/700

General Assembly

Distr.: General
3 January 2003

Original: English

Fifty-seventh session
Agenda items 19 and 39

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)

Letter dated 19 December 2002 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I wish to refer to the letter dated 8 October 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations to you, which was circulated as General Assembly document A/57/461, in which the Government of the Argentine Republic reiterated its rejection of the "White Paper on Partnership for Peace and Prosperity: Britain and the Overseas Territories".

The Government of the United Kingdom rejects the above-mentioned letter. The United Kingdom has no doubt about its sovereignty over the Falkland Islands, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas. The nomenclature applied to Overseas Territories, which was confirmed with Parliamentary enactment of the British Overseas Territories Act, 2002 does not alter the status of those territories.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for this note to be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 19 and 39.

(*Signed*) Jeremy **Greenstock**

03-20107 (E) 060103